

NEWS RELEASE

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For further information contact:
Paula Johnson
at 540-341-7019 or by email at
pauladrdr@aol.com

2014 Warrenton-Fauquier Heritage Day

Journey back in time on Saturday, September 20, 2014 and witness history as it comes alive along Main Street and Courthouse Square in Old Town Warrenton for the tenth annual event commemorating the history of Warrenton and Fauquier County. The Old Town Main Street observances begin at 9:00 AM and run through 3:00 PM. The event features living historians, special programs and a 9:00 AM Living History Parade highlighting over two centuries of our proud and distinguished Virginia and national heritage telling the story of the town and county as it proceeds down Main Street.

The town of Warrenton's incorporation occurred on January 4, 1810. At the time of the American Revolution, Warrenton was a settlement of Falmouth-Winchester and Alexandria-Culpeper roads where the Red Post trading center was established. By 1790 the first courthouse was built and a jail erected. Richard Henry Lee donated 71 acres of land for a county seat and Warrenton was named in honor of Major General Joseph Warren, killed in the June, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill.

Fauquier County was established on May 1, 1759 and named for Francis Fauquier the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia who served the Commonwealth from 1758 to 1768. The land has a rich and venerable history and was originally described in 1608 as part of the Northern Neck proprietary. The County then was formed from part of Prince William County in 1759 and was the scene of many important military engagements during the 1861 – 1865 War.

Immediately following the parade, living history will take place in front of the Warren Green Building with General Grant and Colonel Mosby reflecting on 1864. After, Colonel Mosby will invite you on a tour of the Town he would have known in the 1860's which will start at 10:15. Following the living history program, the corner of Culpeper and Hotel Streets will be full of varied activities. The Shenandoah Valley Minstrels will provide the music for the free 19th-Century Camp Dance and entertainment. Young and old are invited to join the dance that will be "called" by a dance master instructing the participants with the dance steps.

Also in Courthouse Square on Culpeper and Hotel Streets will be the site for local, regional and national heritage preservation groups and historical information tables, living historians, hands-on demonstrations, author book signings, displays, entertainment, and other special activities. The Fauquier Food Bank and Thrift Store table will be across from the Town Hall and would greatly appreciate donations of canned food or grocery gift cards to help feed those they serve. An educational and fun Children's Corner containing period games, vintage clothing, and toys will be available for discovery and is supervised by

teachers and volunteers. Hats from History will be available for parent photo opportunities. Living historians, a period wartime bivouac tents, and outdoor entertainment will be available.

The county contains many battlefields and served as the base of operations for Colonel John S. Mosby; now known as Mosby's Confederacy and will be the basis for the interesting and informative Speaker's Program – *In Mosby's Confederacy*. The program will be presented in the Warren Green Building and feature some of Colonel Mosby's artifacts and pictures. The lectures will be given by noted local and regional Mosby authors and lecturers along with a lecture by *General Robert E. Lee*.

The Piedmont Model Railroaders will be located in the John Barton Payne Building on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The organization was founded in Warrenton in 1995 to provide a place where railroad enthusiasts of all ages could share their interests in railroading. Also, the Warrenton Caboose located just off Main St. at the Warrenton Greenway on S. Fourth St. will be open from 8:00 AM for one hour.

Warrenton town museums will be open during the event. Located at 10 Ashby St. the Fauquier History Museum at the Old Jail will be open from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. You will experience a variety of displays including two jails and many aspects of Fauquier County history. Take a leisurely stroll down Main St. noting the historic architectural styles until you reach the Italian villa style post-war home of Colonel John S. Mosby which is the Mosby Museum. It located at 173 Main St. will provide education about Colonel Mosby and house tours from 11:00 AM through 4:00 PM.

Supported by the Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County, this rain or shine, family friendly educational heritage event is admission free! This annual celebration was established to encourage the public to learn more of our rich Virginia and American heritage through living history displays, reenactments, tours, guest speakers and related activities. All interested local heritage, civic, service and landmark business organizations wishing to enter a Fauquier history-themed float in the Living History Parade or who wish to participate with a heritage display in Courthouse Square, provide period entertainment, or volunteer to help with the event, may contact Paula Johnson at (540) 341-7019; or by email to pauladrd@aol.com. The event registration form may be downloaded by going to www.mosbysplayers.com

The Warrenton-Fauquier Heritage Day committee encourages all citizens to come out and enjoy this unique day of community and family friendly living history celebration. We hope it will also serve as a reminder of the unique pride of place and historic Virginia and American Town that Warrenton represents; both past and present. Fauquier History: Live It! Learn It! Preserve It!